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## Editorial

### THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

In this issue will be found the report of the Commission on College Entrance Requirements in Latin. We suspect that few teachers in the Middle West and South have taken much interest in the existence of the commission. For, as regards the colleges and universities in its own territory, the Middle West and South already have both uniform entrance requirements and a larger freedom than most teachers care to employ. The commission has recommended nothing which can change in any essential particular either the requirements or the freedom.

To state exactly the present situation as to uniformity would require more reading of catalogues than time permits. Institutions do differ, of course, in the number of years of Latin which they require for entrance. In other respects we believe that the West and the South have uniformity. That is, we believe that in the whole territory of the Association of the Middle West and South there is not one institution which admits solely, or even largely, on examination; and that there is not one which will not admit without condition on a certificate that the candidate has read four books of Caesar, six orations of Cicero, and six books of Vergil, with the proper amount of prose composition. In the East we believe that the same is true for a majority of the institutions, though the number of students admitted on examination is greater. We are told that only four universities admit solely on examination. If so, these four are responsible for the whole agitation for uniformity, though a few other institutions present slight peculiarities, perhaps to show that they, too, are strong enough to defy public opinion. Each of the four has its own ideas

of what an entrance examination should be, and each is so strong that it dares to insist on its own ideas, at whatever cost of inconvenience to secondary teachers. This lack of uniformity, though less in extent and degree than might be supposed from the the outcry against it, is a genuine evil. We are all to be congratulated on the probability that it may now disappear.

Since all teachers were ready to vote for uniformity, it evidently seemed a pity not to let them vote for something else at the same time. So each framer of resolutions, except in the Association of the Middle West and South, added other demands, according to his taste. We believe that the action of the commission in regard to them will commend itself to all but the extreme partisans of each panacea. So far as freedom of choice of authors is concerned, while the catalogues may not always show it, we believe that in practice every college and university in the West and South is already entirely willing to accept for entrance anything recommended in the report, with the possible exception of Cicero's *De senectute*. In the East the situation is almost the same. The number of institutions which stand in the way of freedom of choice is even smaller than of those which prevent uniformity. We do not believe, however, that the majority of teachers desire this freedom of substitution, or that they will make much greater use of it in the future than in the past; and we think the commission acted wisely in limiting as it did the field from which selection may be made.

To sum up: The universal adoption of these requirements will mean for the Middle West and South that in the future as in the past the usual four years' course will consist of a beginners' book, four books of Caesar, six orations of Cicero, six books of Vergil, with exercises in prose composition throughout the entire course. In the future as in the past certain substitutions may be made for parts of the reading. But the limits within which these substitutions may be made will be set definitely, and the possibility of making them will be stated more clearly than at present. The teacher will be urged to train for power to translate at sight. Any good student who has taken only the regular Latin course in any good western or southern school will be able, without special preparation or further reading, to meet the entrance tests for any institution in the country.